GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:237
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
STUDY ON PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
Khan Shri Sunil;Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study regarding performance and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is planning to make any changes/ modifications in the existing Panchayati Raj system based on the findings of the study;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions are being conducted regularly in each State and Union Territory;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (g):- A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.237 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.12.2005 REGARDING STUDY ON PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS.

(a) to (d) : While various facets of the performance and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions are studied by the Union Government from time to time, no single Study on a nation-wide basis has been conducted regarding the performance and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Information which is made available with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj indicates that the Panchayati Raj system is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories to which Part IX of the Constitution applies except for Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections are still to be held and NCT Delhi where the Panchayati Raj Act was suspended several years back. With a view to ensuring the efficient functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized seven Round Tables around the country between July and December, 2004. The consensus reached at these Round Tables comprises around 150 action points on which effective devolution hinges. The implementation programme involves extensive and close coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments/UT administrations. Sustained efforts continue to be taken in this regard. Particular mention may be made of adoption and preparation of a Devolution Index, based on a recommendations made during Fifth Round Table, regarding the preparation of a `State of the Panchayats` report every year by all States and Union Government so as to ensure credible monitoring and evolution of the panchayati raj system in each State of the Union. Among other initiatives taken in this regard is the convening of a Conference of Academics and Specialists, based in India and abroad, scheduled to take place during December 2005, to discuss and deliberate on different aspects of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country and to suggest a way forward.

(e), (f) & (g) : All the States/UTs except Jharkhand and Pondicherry have held Panchayat elections after the enactment of the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act 1992. NCT Delhi had suspended the State Panchyati Raj Act several years back and therefore elections have not been held in NCT Delhi. Elections in Jharkhand were scheduled to have been held in September 2005 but were not held due to litigation. The Pondicherry Government have said their preparations for elections got disrupted owing to the Tsunami and now they are preparing for, and are committed to, holding Panchayat elections at the earliest.